

New chief vows to be tough on crooks

BASILDON'S new police chief has vowed to continue the relentless pursuit of career crooks in the town.

Chief Insp Rachel Wood pledged to continue to favour hardline tactics to stop prolific criminals from causing misery for residents.

The 33-year-old, who has served nearly 12 years service in the force, will continue using controversial methods to target Basildon's worst criminals.

This includes following criminals 24-hours a day and photographing their every move.

Mrs Wood, who started her career on Canvey, said her main aims will be to cut burglaries and antisocial behaviour – the crimes which cause the most misery for residents.

She said: "Burglary is on the decline in Basildon because we have locked up some of the key

figures. We are just having a couple every day, but that is still two too many.

"For me, burglary and antisocial behaviour are the two big priorities. In terms of antisocial behaviour, I want to work to change people's perception of it, as well as reducing problems themselves."

Mrs Wood added: "Considering the amount of licensed premises we have, Basildon is a really safe place to come to.

"We have a very good relationship with security staff at the Festival Leisure park, which I want to continue. But if we have particular problems with pubs or bars around drug use or anything else, then I will run

operations targeting them."

Mrs Wood has taken over as Basildon district commander from Chief Insp Simon Dobinson who has joined the Met Police.



Hardline tactics – Chief Insp Rachel Wood, Basildon's new top cop